

Sunburst

Vol. 47 No. 36

Serving the Holloman Air Force Base community

Friday, Sept. 17, 2004



Briefly

Happy birthday

Team Holloman celebrates the Air Force's 57th birthday today.

- Wing run: 7 a.m., Fitness and Sports Center
- Cake ceremony: following the wing run at the gym.
- History presentation: 9:30 a.m., building 29 conference room.

Correction

For information about motorcycle regulations, contact the 49th Security Forces Squadron at 572-7171.

Folklore show

The Hispanic Heritage Month Folklore Show is 7:30 p.m., today at the Whispering Sands Community Center.

The event is a fashion show highlighting 22 countries.

The evening will end with light hors d'oeuvres followed by a dance at 9 p.m.

For more information, call 572-7476.

Vote

There are only 47 days to election day and 17 more days to register to vote. For more information, contact a unit voting representative. A list can be found on the Holloman Intranet.

Oktoberfest

The Oktoberfest is from 3 to 11:30 p.m., Oct. 16. Tickets are available at Outdoor Recreation, Chamber of Commerce, Otero Federal Credit Union and White Sands Mall.



Photo by Tech. Sgt. James Hart

Honor

The base honor guard posted the colors during the ceremony honoring prisoners of war and members missing in action Thursday at Heritage Park.

Leaders send birthday message

The following is an Air Force birthday message from Secretary of the Air Force Dr. James G. Roche and Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. John P. Jumper:

Happy birthday to the Airmen of the world's greatest air and space force! Our 57 years of history may be short, but they are packed with astounding accomplishments. We've broken the sound barrier, expanded military operations to the reaches of space, ushered stealth technology and precision-strike capability into modern warfare, delivered humanitarian aid to austere locations, jointly

won the Cold War and provided decisive air and space power for wars in Korea, Vietnam, the Balkans, Afghanistan and Iraq. Your dedication to excellence, your integrity and your faithful service is recognized and appreciated by all Americans.

Since our inception in 1947, America's Air Force has flown lead in defending peace and freedom around the world. That legacy was made possible by millions of professional Airmen dedicated to accomplishing critical missions with total success.

Today, you are the torchbearers of our legacy. You are performing re-

markably across the globe delivering aid to people in need and defending and protecting our great nation from emerging threats and new enemies. Your competence, dedication to the mission and pride of service is renowned. We know you also have wonderful families who support your long hours and deployments away from home. We are grateful for their support.

You represent the strength and patriotism of our great nation. America is proud of our Air Force because of you. Thanks for your service and again, happy birthday!



High: 93
Low: 55
TODAY



High: 90
Low: 55
SATURDAY



High: 90
Low: 57
SUNDAY



High: 88
Low: 57
MONDAY

Weather forecast provided by the 49th Operations Support Squadron Weather Flight

CSAF outlines plans for fewer combat aircraft

by Master Sgt. Scott Elliott
Air Force Print News

The Air Force will have fewer fighters and strike aircraft, but the lethality of those that remain will increase, the service's top general said Sept. 13 at the 2004 Air Force Association's Air and Space Conference and Technology Exposition in Washington D.C.

Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. John P. Jumper said the service plans to reduce its number of combat aircraft. By reinvesting the potential savings from operating and maintaining those "surplus" aircraft, the Air Force can significantly improve the capability of those that remain, he said.

"I don't think that even reduced numbers ... will produce any less killing capacity," General Jumper said. "As a matter of fact, the lethality of even a reduced number of weapons systems will be extraordinarily increased over what we have right now."

To illustrate his point, the chief of staff re-

minded people of the successful test of a multi-unit bomb rack aboard the B-2 Spirit bomber that released 80 Global Positioning System-guided bombs.

"Eighty targets now are the potential for one airplane," he said. "So it's neither right nor proper for us to argue that the same force structure and size is required when the killing capacity of each of these systems goes dramatically up.

"It's already a matter of record that we plan on replacing an F-15 (Eagle), F-15E (Strike Eagle) and F-117 (Nighthawk) fleet that was numbered above 750 with F/A-22 (Raptors) in numbers around 400," General Jumper said.

Money saved from reducing the number of operational aircraft will then be used to improve the remaining fleet.

"We need to recapitalize the fleet, so we look at things like the A-10 (Thunderbolt II)," General Jumper said. "We can do that ... by taking savings from that reduction, as we did with the B-1, and make

(the A-10) digitally capable."

While the number of F-15s may get smaller, the general promised gainful employment to those who fly and work with them.

"There is no need for anxiety on the part of anyone in the F-15 community — their jobs will not go away," he said. "We intend to make the airplanes we have more versatile."

Specifically, the chief of staff said the traditional air-to-air version of the F-15 (the C model) will pick up air-to-ground capability. General Jumper said the remaining F-15Es will have their capabilities expanded.

"With the advent of bombs we can release just based on a cross on a display that says where a target is, it makes it much easier for F-15Cs to play in the whole execution phase after air superiority has been attained, and be active in all phases of combat rather than just be in the air superiority phase," the general said. "To me, it's good sense; it's good finance; it's good decision-making."

A slice of lemon to help us remember

by Maj. Tony Clavenna
Pope Air Force Base, S.C.

Several times throughout the year, we gather to honor those who fight for freedom. We honor our fallen in May and our veterans in November. We honor their sacrifices and sometimes even thank our veterans personally. Perhaps we even reflect on the impact of their sacrifices on their families and pass along our thanks to them as well. But how often do we consider and remember those missing in action and our prisoners of war?

Today there are more than 10,000 American servicemembers still identified as MIA. This includes 126 from the Cold War, 1,854 from Vietnam, 8,186 from Korea and one from the Gulf War. Of these missing, more than 1,600 are fellow Air Force members.

It's hard to imagine what they experienced and what some may still be experiencing. It's even more difficult to imag-

ine what it must be like for their loved ones. How do they sustain hope for a reunion? If they convince themselves that their servicemember died, how do they find closure when there are no remains and there is still some hope? The uncertainty must weigh heavy on their minds and hearts. These families and our MIAs need our prayers, support and hope.

Another group in need of our support is POWs. I find it incredible to think of the stress, loneliness and torture POWs have experienced. What tremendous strength of character and purpose it must take to survive such an environment. Selflessness, faith in country and perseverance are all examples we should learn from and strive to emulate. We should thank them and their families for their sacrifice and service.

So what can you and I do for our POWs and missing? Reflect upon their plight and include them and their families in your prayers. Encourage others to continue to

honor these great Americans at military ceremonies. Embrace their example of steadfastness of purpose and never rest until all are found and identified.

President Bush stated during a Memorial Day ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery, "We must remember a special group of veterans, Americans still missing and unaccounted for from Vietnam, Korea, the Cold War and World War II. We honor them today. They deserve and will have our best efforts to achieve the fullest possible accounting and, alive or dead, to return them home to America." That is part of our mission as military members.

As we have often heard in military ceremonies, "A slice of lemon on the bread plate reminds us of their bitter fate." Each year, we have the opportunity to reflect on that bitter fate and honor our POWs and MIAs. It is the least we can do for them, considering all they have done for us.

DUI Update

Days since last DUI	23
DUIs this year	29
This week last year	19

Last six DUIs

• 49 AMXS	Aug. 25
• GAF	Aug. 7
• 49 SFS	July 25
• 746 TS	July 18
• 49 AMXS	July 2
• 49 SVS	June 23

* Dependent

572-RIDE works!

Calls made are lives saved

726 Saves this year
16 Saves this week



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IDEA program rewards NCO

by **Ms. Laura Hunt**
Sunburst staff writer

A 49th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron repair and reclamation technician earned \$18,013 in three years through the Innovative Development through Employee Awareness program.

Staff Sgt. Michael Higgins has developed 41 ideas for improving the performance of the F-117A Nighthawk. His latest award of \$8,043 was earned for changing the service life of the F-117's nose landing gear wheels from 15 to 20 years.

His idea saved the Air Force approximately \$90,000.

"We came up on 31 wheels that were going to be condemned next year," Sergeant Higgins said. "I changed the service life on them because I knew through inspections the wheels would last a lot longer."

Sergeant Higgins said his inspections are now more thorough. They check the gear more frequently and do a more in-depth visual inspection, ensuring the equipment will last longer.

Total, Sergeant Higgins' ideas have saved the Air Force \$139,893. He has taught other members of his shop how to utilize the program.

"It's good for us because it gives us incentive to read the books and find out what's wrong," Sergeant Higgins said. "It's good for the Air Force because it ends up saving injuries, possibly loss of life and money. It makes the job safer and more productive."

According to Tech. Sgt. Martin Johnson, 49th Fighter Wing Manpower analyst and IDEA Program Manager, the IDEA program increases efficiency, saves resources and improves processes and equipment in the interest of national defense.

"The IDEA Program encourages innovative, creative thinking by both military and civilian personnel of all ranks, Sergeant Johnson said. "It is designed to provide timely evaluation of ideas by qualified experts utilizing the IDEA Program Data System, to implement adopted ideas and to recognize personnel with appropriate cash or non-cash awards."

The IDEA program is open to all active duty members and Department of Defense employees. Contractors and non-appropriated fund employees may apply, but can't receive a monetary reward.

If the submitted idea has tangible savings, reward bonuses are calculated as 15 percent of



Photo by Ms. Laura Hunt

Staff Sgt. Michael Higgins inspects an F-117A Nighthawk wheel.

the first year's savings up to \$10,000. If the idea doesn't directly save money but improves performance or helps in other intangible ways, the member gets a \$200 bonus.

During fiscal year 2004, Team Holloman members submitted 119 ideas, saving the Air Force a total of \$1,844,700.

Members can submit ideas online <https://ideas.randolph.af.mil/ipdswarn.html>. Anyone having trouble logging in, using or registering with the system can call the manpower office at 572-2274.

Holloman chief shapes future E-9s

by **Airman 1st Class Stephen Collier**
49th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

The 49th Services Squadron chief enlisted advisor was selected as one of 46 chief master sergeants throughout the Air Force to critique a new chief master sergeant course.

Chief Master Sgt. David Bratton, 49th Services Squadron superintendent, traveled to Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala., to critique the new Chief Master Sergeant Leadership Course. During the eight-day workshop, the chief reviewed lessons that focused on the Air Expeditionary Force concept, strategic

planning at the major command level and integration with other service branches.

Chief Bratton said the eight day leadership course will provide future E-9s with a better perspective on what the Air Force mission is at a higher-enlisted level.

"It's very important for the Air Force to have its own chief master sergeant's course," Chief Bratton said. "From General Jumper down, all senior leaders have expressed the importance for chiefs to be ready to tackle mission-essential issues faster. This is one way to get new chiefs together to meet with the senior leadership in

the Air Force and learn about operations from a higher-level perspective."

During the workshop, Chief Bratton examined the course, inserting and extracting different subject matter information. The chief said this type of course could have helped him when he pinned on chief stripes in February 2000.

"Normally a chief learns their position through trial and error," he said. "This is an organized, laid-down procedure on things a chief needs to learn. We all wished we had this course when we were new chiefs. It's a great thing for the Air Force."

Servicemembers can apply for expedited U.S. citizenship

by **Gerry J. Gilmore**
American Forces Press Service

Foreign-born servicemembers can now speed up the process to obtain American citizenship.

The immediate eligibility for servicemembers to become a naturalized citizen is based on Executive Order 13269 signed by President Bush July 3, 2002. Section 329 of the 8 U.S. Code allows the president to authorize expedited citizenship during periods in which the United States is engaged in armed conflict with a hostile foreign force.

For example, servicemembers who have served honorably for any period of time beginning on or after Sept. 11, 2001, are eligible to apply for expedited U.S. citizenship, Col. Michael Pachuta, Department of Defense's Morale, Welfare and Recreation policy office director said.

The peacetime waiting period is shortened to one year of honorable service, thanks to the fiscal 2004 National Defense Authorization Act. Before the executive order, the peacetime waiting period was three years of honorable military service, Colonel Pachuta said.

Beginning Oct. 1, the new law allows for U.S. citizenship applications to be finalized at U.S. embassies, consulates and selected military installations overseas, to include citizenship interviews, testing and oaths of allegiance, he said. Also effective Oct. 1, the new law waives the \$310 citizenship application and fingerprint fee.

Mrs. Paula Cholewa, 49th Mission Support Squadron customer service representative, said military members must schedule an appoint to begin the process.

"We encourage members to make an appointment with the military processing flight as soon as possible due to the large amount of paperwork required,"



Photo by Airman 1st Class Stephen Collier

Airman 1st Class Marcia Zhindon salutes the U.S. flag at Heritage Park. She recently became a U.S. citizen.

Mrs. Cholewa said.

After the documentation is completed, members must travel to El Paso, Texas, to complete fingerprinting. The member's packet is then sent to the Air Force Processing Center where members must wait anywhere from six months to a couple of years.

"The new law also provides sped-up avenues for the non-U.S.-citizen spouses, children and parents of servicemembers who have died as a result of service in combat to obtain immediate relative alien status," Colonel Pachuta said.

He said the new citizenship application rules cover active-duty servicemembers and National Guard and Reserve people who are classified as members of the Selected Reserve of the Ready Reserve.

Airman 1st Class Marcia Zhindon, 7th Combat Training Squadron information manager, received her citizenship March 26 through the executive order. After waiting five months to be sworn in, she said becoming a

citizen gave her a lot of pride.

"Being able to vote for my commander-in-chief was the biggest thing," the Colombia native said. "I now have pride in myself because I am an American now. I have power, the right to vote and I am more marketable for the Air Force, becoming more flexible with base choices."

Airman Zhindon said members wanting to become U.S. citizens must remain patient.

"Be very appreciative of the folks at the MPF who work with your package," she said. "Sometimes you go through a lot of paperwork and it can be hectic. But, in the long run, it's all worth it because you'll be proud to be an American like I am."

Airmen seeking to become naturalized U.S. citizens under the expedited process can contact the MPF at 572-0070 for more information.

Additional information can be found at the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services Web site at <http://www.uscis.gov>.

Air Force Association's 2004 conference opens

**by Tech. Sgt.
David A. Jablonski**
Air Force Print News

Touting America's superior air and space force, the Air Force Association's 2004 Air and Space Conference and Technology Exposition opened in Washington Monday.

Under the theme "Professional Development for the Total Force," the conference features three days of workshops focused on furthering the potential of America's Airmen.

John J. Politi, AFA chairman of the board, highlighted Air Force achievements relative to current world events and the war on terrorism during his opening remarks.

"Air and space power has often led the way to success in the joint and combined campaigns, but still we face a relentless enemy and much remains to be accomplished," Mr. Politi said.

Secretary of the Air Force Dr. James G. Roche centered his opening remarks on the sacrifice of Airmen.

"The men and women here today understand the awesome effects of air and space power," Secretary Roche said. "We also understand the omnipresent danger even in peacetime. You know the security of our country often depends on those who endure unspeakable hardship in silence, whose sacrifices occur without public knowledge."

Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. John P. Jumper also welcomed Airmen and spoke of the importance of this year's theme.

"The professional development theme fits well with our force development initiatives that have taken root over the last couple of years," General Jumper said.

But the first hours of the conference were dedicated to recognizing countless Airmen, civilians and family members who contributed to the Air Force's success in 2004.

Secretary Roche and General

Jumper specifically recognized two men, presenting the Silver Star to retired Cols. John McKone and Freeman Olmstead.

The colonels distinguished themselves during operations July 1, 1960 to Jan. 24, 1961. During that time the two 55th Strategic Reconnaissance Wing pilots were held captive in solitary confinement in a Moscow prison after a Soviet fighter aircraft had shot down their RB-47 aircraft over international waters. For 208 days the colonels were continuously interrogated and harassed by numerous Soviet secret police interrogation teams.

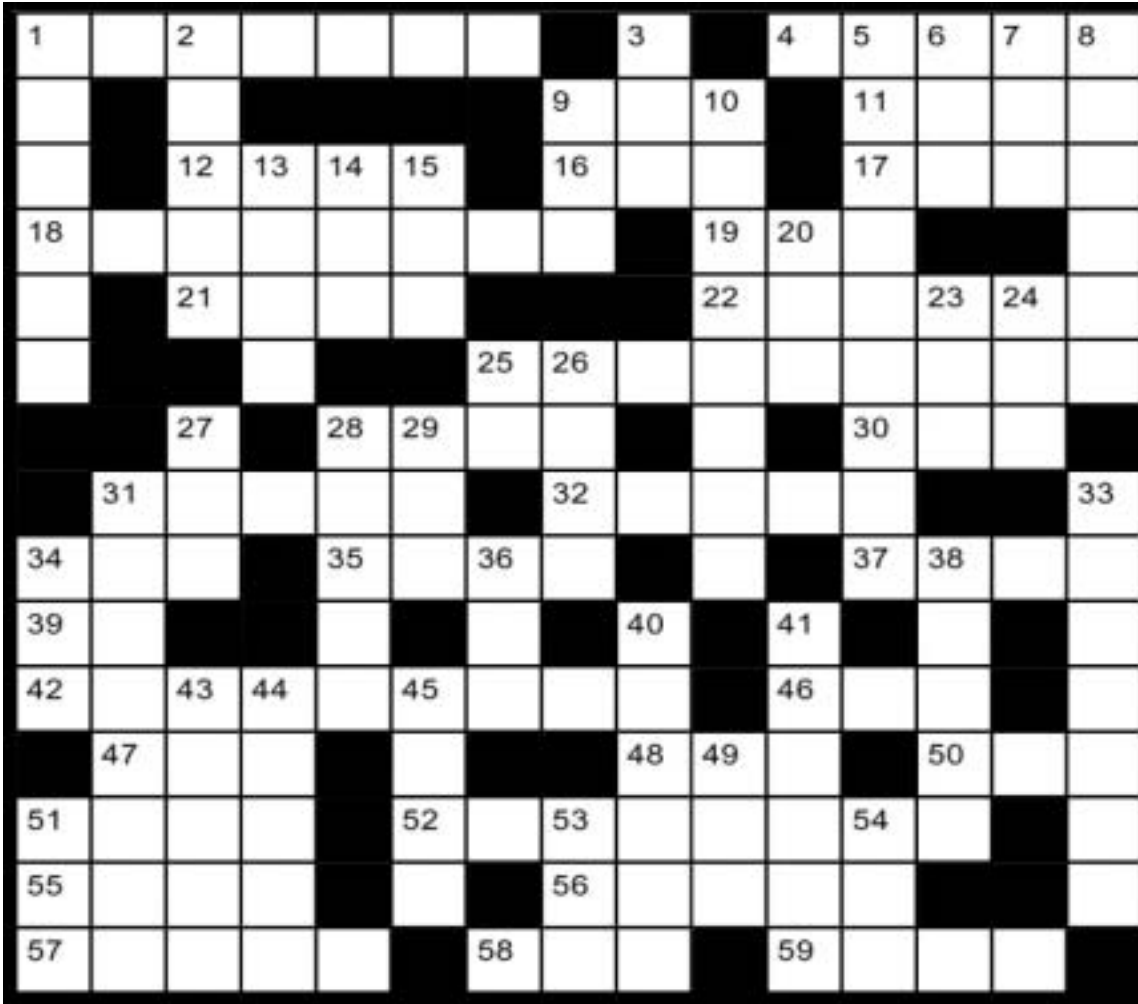
Although gravely weakened physically by the lack of food, denial of sleep and the mental rigors of constant interrogations, the colonels steadfastly refused to give sensitive defense information or to be exploited for propaganda purposes. They resisted all Soviet efforts to obtain the confessions the captors sought as part of a pretrial investigation. After enduring seven months of unmentionable hardship, the colonels were finally released to the United States under the condition that the situation would not be used as a public demonstration of Soviet defeat. A showcase trial in the Soviet Union was never held.

Mr. Politi, joined by more Air Force leaders, presented nearly 50 individual and unit awards. The AFA's complete list of awards and winners is available at: www.afa.org/AboutUs/nawards.asp.

The most significant award presentation took place when the association recognized the 2004 Outstanding Airmen of the Year. They are at www.afa.org/AboutUs/120a.asp.

The Air Force Association is an independent, nonprofit, civilian organization promoting public understanding of aerospace power and the pivotal role it plays in the security of the nation. It has nearly 133,000 members.

CROSSWORD



Happy Birthday, USAF!

ACROSS

1. First USAF officer to serve as CJCS
4. Basilica
9. Actress ____ Marie Saint
11. Shrek was one
12. Ship
16. Aloha gift
17. Bill Parcell nickname
18. Year of USAF independence (on Air Force Seal)
19. abc...ghi...
21. Places
22. Singer/songwriter King
25. Sport reporter (2 words)
28. War in South Africa
30. Dine
31. What combat aircrews “sat” during Cold War
32. Central Asia country
34. Org. that secures federal products, services
35. Capital of Norway
37. Tardy
39. America, informally
42. First SECAF of the USAF
46. Golf score
47. Airman Medal of Honor recipient Henry E. Erwin’s nickname

48. SE regional power provider
50. Snakelike fish
51. Location
52. Only three-time recipient of Mackay Trophy
55. Seat of Irish kings in ancient times
56. Type of Navy officer?
57. USAF plane that dropped first atomic weapon; ____ Gay
58. Actress West
59. Ambition

DOWN

1. President who signed EO 9877 to create separate USAF
2. Long-range nuclear missiles controlled by USAF
3. St. alternative
5. Airman who made first free back-type parachute jump
6. School located in Be’er Sheva, Israel (abbrev.)
7. Sea bird
8. USAF pilot to first break sound barrier
9. Inventor Whitney
10. Name prior to USAF: Army ____
13. Steers
14. Model Carol

15. Boob-tubes
20. Actor Mineo
23. Gametes of animals
24. Allow
25. Gym class
26. River in Tuscany
27. Pie ____ mode (two words)
28. 8th SECAF of the USAF
29. USAF commissioning source
31. Person from ancient empire
33. First airman to receive Medal of Honor after USAF established
34. First USAF astronaut to fly; Virgil I. “____” Grissom
36. Object used in making choice at random
38. First CMSAF of the USAF
40. Main dish
41. First CSAF of the USAF
43. Subway system
44. Model
45. Prey
49. Airman in service during time of war, briefly
51. Sault ____ Marie
53. Accountant, in brief
54. Stain



The 49th Security Forces Squadron handled the following incidents from Sept. 6 to Monday.

Tickets



Security forces issued 17 tickets: one for failure to wear proper protective equipment on a motorcycle, four for failure to stop, two for expired registration, one for no turn signal, one for no proof of insurance, two for failure to use seatbelts, one for failure to obey police officer instructions, two for limitations on backing, one for shoplifting, one for failure to obey a traffic sign and one for a vehicle left unattended and running.

Property loss, damage or theft

- Sept. 8 – There was a minor accident between two government-owned vehicles on the west ramp adjacent to spot 34. A driver was distracted while backing up and hit the other vehicle.
- Sept. 8 – An Airman reported he damaged a window in Dorm 457. His friend locked herself out of the room and he was trying to get in

- through the window.
- Sept. 10 – There was a major accident on highway 54. A GOV’s tire blew out and the vehicle rolled over. Two Airman were transported to William Beaumont Medical Center for treatment
 - Sept. 13 – A family member reported damage to her privately owned vehicle.
 - Sept. 13 – There was a minor accident between two GOVs in the building 855 parking lot.
- Patrol response**
- Sept. 10 – An NCO reported a domestic dispute in the building 583 parking lot.
 - Sept. 10 – An anonymous caller reported a fight in Dorm 341.
 - Sept. 11 – A family member was detained for shoplifting at the base exchange. The family member tried to take a Game Boy Advanced.
- Civil arrest**
- Sept. 10 – An Airman was arrested by the Alamogordo Department of Public Safety for altering his identification card, underage drinking and indecent exposure.

Base housing speed limits

Main roads and drives:	Loops, lanes, places and courts:
	



Courtesy Graphic

Day of Caring

Volunteers offer community service

by Ann McCullough
Alamogordo United Way

The 14th Annual Day of Caring is Thursday. Every year almost 400 volunteers meet at Washington Park and travel around the county performing volunteer work at people's homes, non-profit organizations and churches. The people receiving the help are usually older or have disabilities who cannot do the work for themselves.

This year's Day of Caring features a new service, towing away of unwanted vehicles. Ms. Flori McElderry, a long-time volunteer for United Way, has been working with Code Enforcement and Keep Alamogordo Beautiful.

"We have become aware of numerous unused, unwanted vehicles in the county," she said. "Recognizing that people may not have the resources to dispose of these vehicles, we are instituting a plan to haul them away at no charge to the owners."

Some jobs done by Day of Caring volunteers in the past have included cutting weeds, raking yards, cutting and stacking firewood, cleaning houses, washing windows, painting porches and even building wheelchair ramps. In past years, nearly 400 volunteers from Holloman Air Force Base and the other communities in Otero County have participated. The

volunteers are assigned to job sites in Alamogordo, Cloudcroft, Tularosa and surrounding areas.

Volunteers will meet at 7 a.m., Thursday at the Washington Park Pavilion for coffee, juice and donuts. There will be a brief welcoming ceremony at 7:30 a.m. and volunteers will go to their job sites at 8 a.m. Volunteers should bring work gloves, hats and sunscreen. T-shirts will be given to the volunteers, and a free lunch will be served to the participating volunteers from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Eagles, 471 24th St. The lunch will be prepared by volunteers from Veteran's of Foreign War Post 10603 and Court Appointed Special Advocates.

Team Holloman members should call Master Sgt. Steve Jones at 572-3021 to volunteer.

For more information about towing unwanted vehicles, call Ms. McElderry at 437-0716.

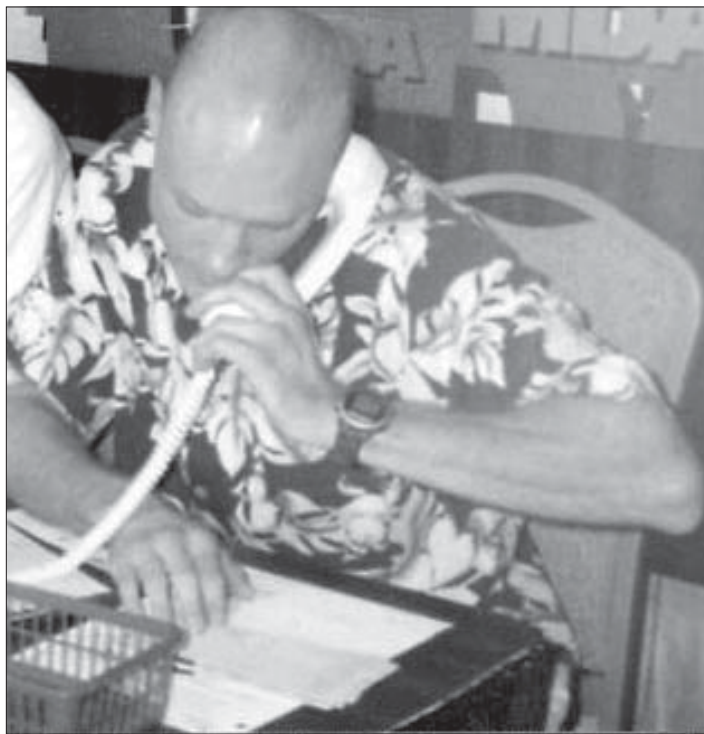
The United Way is part of the Combined Federal Campaign, which raises donations for various charities.

An executive order made the CFC a reality and turned an innovative idea into a uniquely effective way for federal employees to help those in need across the community and around the world.

For more information on the CFC, call 572-5033.

Make the call

Staff Sgt. Brian Morrow, volunteered 19 hours during the Jerry Lewis Telethon Labor Day weekend in El Paso. The telethon raised money to help fight muscular dystrophy, a disease that breaks down muscle tissue. Volunteers included ROTC from Biggs Airfield, Miss Teen New Mexico, El Paso Fire Department and Steak and Ale Company.



Courtesy photo

Sailors, Airmen can ‘go green’

“Go Green” is not just the slogan of environmentalists anymore.

The Army is increasing its end strength, and Operation Blue to Green is one method being used to assist in reaching the desired end strength, said Lt. Col. Roy Steed, recruiting policy branch chief at the Army’s personnel headquarters.

The Army is hoping to turn reductions in the Navy and Air Force to its advantage with the Blue to Green program announced by the Defense Department July 29.

The goal of the program is to recruit re-enlistment eligible servicemembers in grades E-1 to E-5 who are leaving the Navy or the Air Force but wish to stay in uniform, Colonel Steed said.

So far, the program is seeing some success. The first “class” has begun its four-week Warrior Transition Course at Fort Knox, Ky. Ten former Sailors, two former Airmen and three former Marines will complete the newly conceived course as an orientation to the Army combined with training in some basic combat skills.

“It is not a basic-training environment,” Colonel Steed said, because the participants are treated like noncommissioned officers.

The transition course is for all prior-service people requiring basic training and was specifically tailored to them.

It will give these new and returning Soldiers the required basic combat skills and also provide them indoctrination into the Army culture.

Candidates must be eligible for an honorable discharge, be physically fit, meet Army height and weight standards, accept a minimum three-year term of service and have the approval from their current service, according to the Army’s Blue to Green Web site. Also, an eight-year total active/inactive service obligation still applies.

Joining the “Army of One” is an opportunity for servicemembers to continue to serve and use their already acquired skills, or receive new training, he said.

The Army has taken great strides to minimize the disruption of dependents as a servicemember is progressing through the program, Colonel Steed said.

Families are allowed to stay in their current military housing while the candidate goes through training and will move to their new duty station only after the candidate’s training is complete.

There are also re-enlistment bonuses if the candidate meets certain criteria, though there is no specific bonus for participating in Blue to Green.

That is a good thing for many reasons, not the least of which is that being able to put new Soldiers through the four-week course as opposed to the regular nine-week boot camp saves the Army five weeks of training, Colonel Steed said.

For more information on the Blue to Green program, candidates should talk to their recruiter or visit the Army’s Blue to Green Web site at www.goarmy.com/btg/index.jsp.

Forging an independent Air Force

by Master Sgt.
Greg Henneman
49th Fighter Wing historian

Every Airman learns in the first weeks of basic training that the Air Force was established on September 18, 1947. In fact, this week we mark the 57th birthday of our Air Force. The United States Air Force has grown into the best-equipped and trained force in the world. Yet, often forgotten, are the four decades of battles that our Air Force forefathers fought to build an independent service.

Air power cut its teeth during World War I. Legends such as Eddie Rickenbacker and Frank Luke flew aircraft made of little more than sticks and canvas, laying the ground work

for the establishment of new roles and tactics. The Air Service flew several missions during the Great War, including troop observations, support for ground battles, and the future vision of air power—strategic bombardment.

At the end of World War I, calls began for an independent service. In England the world's first independent air service was born in 1918 with the creation of the Royal Air Force. However, service rivalry and a massive military drawdown precluded the establishment of a separate air arm in the United States.

One of the most passionate advocates for air power was the notorious General William “Billy” Mitchell. In 1921,

Mitchell designed and led a series of attacks against captured German warships. The front pages of national newspapers carried the headlines that the airplane succeeded in sinking the ships, including the “unsinkable” German battleship, the *Ostfriesland*.

Despite this demonstration of air power's bombing potential, the War department continued to view the Air Service as merely a support element for ground forces. Mitchell's passion and stubbornness cost him his career. In 1925, Mitchell was tried under court-martial, following comments that were deemed “insubordinate, disrespectful, and prejudicial to good order and discipline.”

Not only did the air service fail to gain autonomy, the 1920s and 1930s were a time of reduced military spending. This resulted in a small force, with few aircraft, not sufficiently funded for maintenance or training. In 1934 the total budget for Army aviation was \$23.3 million, only 8.4 percent of the War Department's expenditures. In the late 1930s, as the possibility of another world war loomed on the horizon, the Air Corps was little more than a “hollow force.” With an inadequately trained and equipped Air Corps on the eve of war, President Franklin D. Roosevelt advocated a large build-up of air power in the late 1930s.

Perhaps the first lesson of air power's true lethality was taught to the United States by the Japanese Air Force on December 7, 1941. During the surprise attack at Pearl Harbor, Japanese aircraft sunk a total of 12 naval ships, damaged nine, taking the lives of more than 2,000 men and wounding 749. Simultaneously, attacks on Hickam and Bellows Airfields resulted in 164 aircraft destroyed and 159 damaged.

However, the United States Army Air Forces would soon show its own might in World



A crew chief from the 49th Fighter-Bomber Wing runs a checklist on an F-84 at Misawa Air Base, Japan in 1950.



Col. Kurt Cichowski, 49th Operations Group Commander, oversees the departure of F-117A Nighthawk aircraft from Holloman in support of Operation DESERT STRIKE in 1996.

War II, as B-17 and B-24 bombers, equipped with crews who trained at Alamogordo Army Air Field, destroyed key targets deep inside adversarial territory. Likewise, the twin tailed P-38 Lightning, and the fighter with the highest kill rate in the war, the P-51 Mustang, gained legendary status among the American people. Serving as the combat arm of Fifth Air Force, the 49th Fighter Group (the predecessor to today's 49th Fighter Wing), flew in every major battle in the Pacific from the defense of Australia to the liberation of the Philippines.

It wasn't long before the American public and leaders of

other services recognized the value of air power. After arriving on the recently conquered beaches of Normandy, General Dwight D. Eisenhower, General of the Army, stated “Without air power I wouldn't be here.”

The lessons of World War II clearly illustrated the value of air power. As such, on July 26, 1947, President Harry Truman signed the National Security Act of 1947, creating the Office of the Secretary of National Defense and establishing the United States Air Force. The act went in to effect on September 18, 1947, fulfilling the dreams and work of Billy Mitchell and his fellow air advocates.



Courtesy photos

The 49th Tactical Fighter Wing flew over 10,000 combat missions during the Vietnam War with the F-4 Phantom II.

What's going on in the Tularosa Basin and beyond...

Apple Festival

The High Rolls-Mountain Park Lions Club's 2004 High Rolls Apple Festival is 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Oct. 16 and 17 at the High Rolls Community Center. It will feature over 50 arts and crafts vendors, local apples and apple products, food, kids' stuff and entertainment. Admission, parking and ambiance are free.

For more information visit www.highrollsfestivals.com or call (505) 682-1151.

Day of Caring

United Way of Otero County's Annual Day of Caring is Thursday.

For more information, call 437-8400.

Shooting match

The Otero Practical Shooting Association has an Action Shooting Match at 9 a.m., Saturday at the Sydney Paul Gordon Shooting Range, 19 Rock Cliff Road, northeast of La Luz. Sign up is at 8:30 a.m. The match is open to the public. Match participants will need a centerfire handgun of 9mm/38 or larger, holster, spare magazines or speedloaders and a shotgun. Approximately 100 pistol rounds and 25 shotgun rounds will be required.

For more match information, call Mr. Butch Rials at 437-3663. For information regarding the Shooting Range, call Range Master Jay Frost at 443-9006.

Stars-N-Parks

Oliver Lee Memorial State Park's Stars-N-Parks program is 7:30 p.m., Saturday at the Group Shelter. The entry fee is \$4.

Ft. Seldon tour

There is a Candlelight Tour of Ft. Seldon from 6 to 9 p.m., Saturday, 13 miles north of Las Cruces, exit 19 on Interstate 25.

For more information, call (505) 526-8911 or visit www.nmculture.org.

Travels in Peru

Travels in Peru, a presentation and slide show by Roy McCloud, is 7 p.m., Sept. 28 at the Alamogordo Public Library, 920 Oregon Ave.

For more information, call 434-2349.

Antique show

The Nostalgia Club of Las Cruces has

an Annual Fall Antique and Collectible Show and Sale 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Saturday and 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Sunday. Admission is \$3 for adults.

For more information, call (505) 526-1600 or (505) 526-8624.

Concert

Ruidoso Regional Council for Arts has a concert-in-the-park 2 to 4 p.m., Sunday at Schoolhouse Park, 501 Sudderth Drive, Ruidoso. Big Danny Bishop and the Jelly Roll Kings will be performing. The event is free. Bring a lawn chair or blanket. The event is moved to the Senior Center in the event of rain.

For more information, call (505) 258-4613.

Poetry reading

Open Mic has a poetry reading 1 to 3 p.m., Saturday at The Open Book bookstore, 906 New York Ave., Alamogordo.

For more information, call 434-2667.

Council meeting

The Otero County Tourism Council meeting is 2 p.m., Thursday in the Alamogordo chamber conference room. Topics will include an event or series of events to be developed to promote the arts in our county, and ideas and input from Otero Arts Council members are welcomed.

Anyone from the Arts Council who would like to attend is invited.

For more information, call Ms. Kristina Marzano at 437-6120.

"Frula"

"Frula," the first of the Flickinger Center's 2004-2005 Premier Series, is 7:30 p.m., Sept. 25 at the Flickinger Center, 1110 New York Ave. "Frula" is a dance repertoire based on the folk tales and customs of Eastern Europe. Tickets are \$20 for adults, \$15 for children.

For more information, call 437-2202.

Book discussion

The Book Discussion Group will discuss Pearl S. Buck's classic, "The Good Earth" 6:30 p.m., Sept. 27 at the Open Book. A classic novel by a Nobel Prize-winning author offers a graphic view of China during the reign of the last Emperor, and tells the story of an honest farmer and his wife as they struggle with the sweeping changes of the twentieth century.

For more information, call 434-2667.

Construction zone

Main gate

A new traffic pattern at the main gate started Thursday. Both inbound and outbound traffic lanes will be shifted to the new constructed paved curve on the west side of the road and a new striping plan will be in place to help direct all traffic. Both inbound and outbound lanes will still have two operable lanes. This traffic pattern shift will be implemented until further notice.

49er Road

Due to the rerouting and widening of 49er Road, there will be a road closure on Arizona Avenue from First Street to Arnold Avenue until further notice.

For more information, call 1st Lt. Stacy Nimmo, 49th Civil Engineer Squadron, at 572-3066.

ALS graduation

The Airman Leadership School Class 04-G graduation retreat is 11:30 a.m., Wednesday in the dorm mall area behind the PME Center building 339. Commanders, first sergeants, supervisors, family and friends are invited to join the graduates. Dress is duty uniform.

For more information, call the Mayo PME Center at 572-5860.

DTS training

Defense Travel System training for September is as follows:

- Traveler training: 8 to 11 a.m., Wednesday at the Bong Theater
- Approving Official training: 8 to 10 a.m., Sept. 24 at the Learning Resource Center, room 232
- Traveler training: 8 to 11 a.m., Sept. 29 at the Bong Theater

Testing

The national test center is now offered through the University of Phoenix. The school offers College Level Examination Program and all of the 35 tests available with instant results.

Holloman has one of the four test cen-



Photo by Airman 1st Class Stephen Collier

He's got PRIDE

Tech. Sgt. Daniel Morris, 49th Materiel Maintenance Support Squadron, tells Ms. Jo Black's 7th and 8th grade family consumer science class about his days in middle school Tuesday. Sergeant Morris is a member of the Falcon PRIDE community-mentoring group that assists students with social and civic development. For more information about the PRIDE program, e-mail Ms. Silvia Papp at silviapapp2003@yahoo.com.

ters in the Department of Defense. Most other bases in ACC only offer paper-based tests.

For more information, call University of Phoenix at 479-4856.

Retirement ceremony

Chief Master Sgt. Phillip Aldrich's retirement ceremony is 2 p.m., Sept. 28 at the Officers' Club. Everyone is welcome to attend the ceremony.

Claims office closed

The claims office will be closed for end of year processing until Sept. 30. New claims will not be accepted during

this time.

For more information, call 572-3625.

FSC

The Family Support Center offers the following classes and events at the FSC, building 40:

- Federal Job Search: 1 to 3 p.m., Monday.
- Three-Day Transition Assistance Program: 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.
- Disability Transition Assistance Program: 8:30 a.m., Sept. 23.

For more information, call the FSC at 572-7754 or visit the Web site at

www.mil.holloman.af.mil/sptg/mss/fsc.

HOSC Thrift Shop

The Thrift Shop is open 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Tuesdays and Thursdays. Until the end of the month, T-Shirts and shorts are on sale for \$.50 and \$1, respectively.

In addition, there will be a sale on Sept. 28 and 30 with the majority of items half-price. Consignments are only accepted from 10 a.m. to noon, Tuesdays and Thursdays.

HazMart giveaway

Paints and other items are available for free issue at the HazMart. The program allows authorized users access to a variety of hazardous chemical items free of charge.

To participate, your shop must be authorized for the item and the item must be in HazMart's free issue area.

For more information, call the HazMart at 572-7899, 572-3093 or 572-7608.

Scuba lessons

Scuba lessons offered through Outdoor Recreation are 6 to 9 p.m., Oct. 5, 7, 12, 19, 21, 26 and 28 in Alamogordo. There will be an open water dive in Balmorea State Park in Texas on Oct. 29, 30 and 31.

Participants must be 13 years or older and sign up by Sept. 28.

For more information, call Mr. Wayne Lyles at 572-5369.

"Macbeth"

The National Endowment for the Arts brings the Alabama Shakespeare Festival and its production of "Macbeth" to Holloman Oct. 20 and 21.

For more information on Shakespeare in American Communities or the National Endowment for the Arts, call the NEA Office of Communications at (202) 682-5570 or visit the NEA Web site at www.arts.gov.

Chapel Services

Weekday Masses – 11:30 a.m., Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday.

Sunday – Catholic Mass, 9 a.m. and 5 p.m.

- Sacrament of Penance, 4 p.m.
- General Protestant Worship Service, 11 a.m.

- Protestant Sunday School is 9:30 a.m. and Catholic Religious Education is 10:30 a.m., Sunday at Holloman Intermediate School.

B On the
BIG SCREEN



The Village (PG-13)

6 and 9 p.m., today

The Manchurian Candidate (R)

6 and 9 p.m., Saturday and 6 p.m., Sunday

Tickets are 99 cents.

Riders take 320-mile trip

by Senior Airman
Martha Whipple
49th Fighter Wing
Public Affairs

Five motorcycles and six riders left the Chapel Annex Saturday for a 320-mile road trip to Carlsbad Caverns and back.

The riders started the day with a safety briefing followed by breakfast at Cloudcroft. They continued through the Lincoln National Forest to Artesia, N.M.,

then to Carlsbad.

“Our goal is to build a squadron-based riding group and increase safety awareness,” said Staff Sgt. Tim Schuster, 49th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron member.

More trips will be planned in the future, depending on participation.

For more information, e-mail timothy.schuster@holloman.af.mil.



Courtesy photo

Six riders took a 320-mile road trip to Carlsbad Caverns and back Saturday.



Photo by Airman 1st Class Stephen Collier

On the go

Airmen 1st Class Katie Arnold and Matt Grigsby clean a pick up truck during the 49th Logistics Readiness Squadron Gas-n-Go Sept. 9 at the shopette. The money raised from the event will go toward the squadron's combat dining out Oct. 1.

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Planning for civilian retirement takes time

As the number of retirement eligible Air Force civilian employees is expected to double by 2009; officials are encouraging them to begin retirement planning early.

Potential retirees are encouraged to obtain an estimate of retirement pay via the Benefits and Entitlements Service Team Web-based Employee Benefits Information System or automated phone system. Information on benefits and planning is also available.

"Employees should contact BEST at least one year before retirement to receive one-on-one counseling over the phone," said Ms. Janet Thomas, a human resources specialist with Air Force Personnel Center. "Individual employee information is available to BEST benefits coun-

selors who are able to cover issues from health insurance to options for withdrawal of Thrift Savings Plan accounts."

Those ready to retire should submit their retirement applications to BEST 90 to 120 days prior to the effective date of retirement, according to Ms. Thomas.

During the process, the potential retirees receive three letters to keep them updated on the status of their application. The first letter acknowledges receipt of the application and the second notifies the employee of his or her eligibility to retire. The third letter is notification that the retirement application has been sent to the servicing payroll office.

The final stop for the retirement application is the Office of Personnel Management, where

the retirement is finalized and retirement payments are started.

Civilian appropriated-fund employees serviced by BEST can obtain additional information on retirement at www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/dpc/best/retiring.htm.

For more information, BEST benefits counselors are available weekdays from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. Central Time. Employees located in the United States can call toll-free (800) 616-3775 (press 2, then 2 again, and follow the prompts).

Overseas employees will first dial a toll-free AT&T direct access number for the country they are in, then 800-997-2378.

Hearing impaired employees can call TDD (800) 382-0893, or commercial (210) 565-2276 if located within the San Antonio area. (AFPN)

Survey measures delivery

by Tech. Sgt. David A. Jablonski

Air Force Print News

Airmen can help make their personnel services delivery system better through survey feedback beginning Monday.

Air Force officials said they are transforming the way personnel services are delivered to make them more effective, efficient and timely.

This PSD transformation uses technology to place the capability for conducting routine personnel and pay transactions into the hands of Airmen via a Web-based system and contact centers, while minimizing the need for face-to-face dealings in an office.

"We must provide commanders the right people they need to accomplish the mission," said Lt. Gen. Roger A. Brady, deputy chief of staff for personnel.

"We are transforming how we provide service to our customers," he said. "This transformation will allow us to accomplish two major goals at the same time.

"First, we will continue our path of using technology to our advantage and push our transactional work to the Web and contact centers as soon as possible. This will allow our customers to access our services 24/7.

"Second, the remaining work will focus on supporting the operational mission —developing Airmen and ensuring we have the right people in the right place at the right time with the right skills and experiences. This realigns the personnel community from processing transactions to a more value-added, commander support role," he said.

Examples of this transformation are the "myPay" and "LeaveWeb" applications many Airmen are already using.

An important element of the PSD transformation effort is measuring customer perspectives as a baseline for the future improvement of service delivery methods, officials said.

The first two surveys being fielded will solicit perceptions on personal customer service satisfaction from military and civilian people of all ranks, and unit leadership perspectives from commanders, first sergeants, command chiefs and senior civilians. Each survey process will continue for several weeks.

The e-mail surveys sent to participants will be anonymous and responses will not be linked to e-mail addresses.

While the participation in the survey is voluntary, a high response turnout from will enhance the study, officials said.



Photo by Airman 1st Class Stephen Collier

Sideout

Travis Henderson slams the ball Sunday during open-play volleyball at the Fitness and Sports Center. Open-play for beginners is from 6 to 8 p.m., Mondays. Regular play is from 6 to 8 p.m., Wednesdays and 3 to 5 p.m., Sundays. For more information, call Thomas Warren at 572-7412.



The Fitness and Sports Center is open from 5 a.m. to midnight, Monday to Thursday; 5 a.m. to 11 p.m., Friday; 8 a.m. to 7 p.m., Saturday, Sunday and holidays.

All lockers are now daily use lockers. This increases the number of lockers available during peak hours. The new locker policy took effect Wednesday. For more information, call the Fitness and Sports Center at 572-3229

AMXS overpowers COMM

Maintainers dominate flag football turf 38-14

by Airman 1st Class Stephen Collier
49th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

The 49th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron dominated the field Sept. 8 during their 38-14 win over the 49th Communications Squadron in the first game of regular season intramural flag football at the sports complex.

COMM started the game with a 10-yard kick return. Quarterback Brad Nimmo completed two passes, but on the drive, Miguel Davila picked off a pass and ran for the AMXS goal line, putting his team up 6-0.

After a 35-yard AMXS kickoff, COMM setup its offensive drive, but was five yards short of a first down, turning the ball over.

AMXS Quarterback Dwayne Scott pulled back and rocketed a spiral to receiver Billy Young, putting AMXS up 12-0. COMM's defensive line held the maintainers to deny the two-point conversion.

For a third time, COMM received the ball, determined to answer back to AMXS's offensive push. After two completions, Nimmo connected with receiver Eric Somppi who ran 50 yards into the end zone.

Kicker Tyler Moore supplied the extra point, put-

ting his team on the scoreboard 12-7.

After two-minute warning, AMXS didn't waste time setting up for another run. Rusher Larry Morrow ran 45 yards into COMM territory. Teammate Jeremy Hicks tacked a third touchdown on the board with an eight-yard catch in the end zone. Morrow completed the two-point conversion with a catch in the right field corner for a 20-7 score at the half.

Nimmo said his team needed a better offensive hold. "We need more time in the backfield," he said. "We need our O-line to hold the defense. If we continue to connect with our receivers, we'll pull off a win."

COMM kicked the ball to Morrow who ran to the 25-yard line. Scott connected with Craig Peterson for another touchdown to lead 26-7.

COMM took the ball, combating the stiff AMXS defense. Nimmo ran the ball in for his team's last touchdown. Moore added the extra point, leaving his team down by 12.

AMXS's Peterson connected with Scott for another touchdown, adding to the lead 32-14. AMXS's Morrow picked off another pass to set up a touchdown-pass to Chad Eichmeier to finish the game 38-14.



Photo by Airman 1st Class Stephen Collier

Larry Reid Jr., 49th Communications Squadron receiver, tries rushing past Dwayne Scott, 49th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron quarterback during the first intramural flag football game Sept. 8. AMXS defeated COMM 38-14.

